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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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22 January 1969

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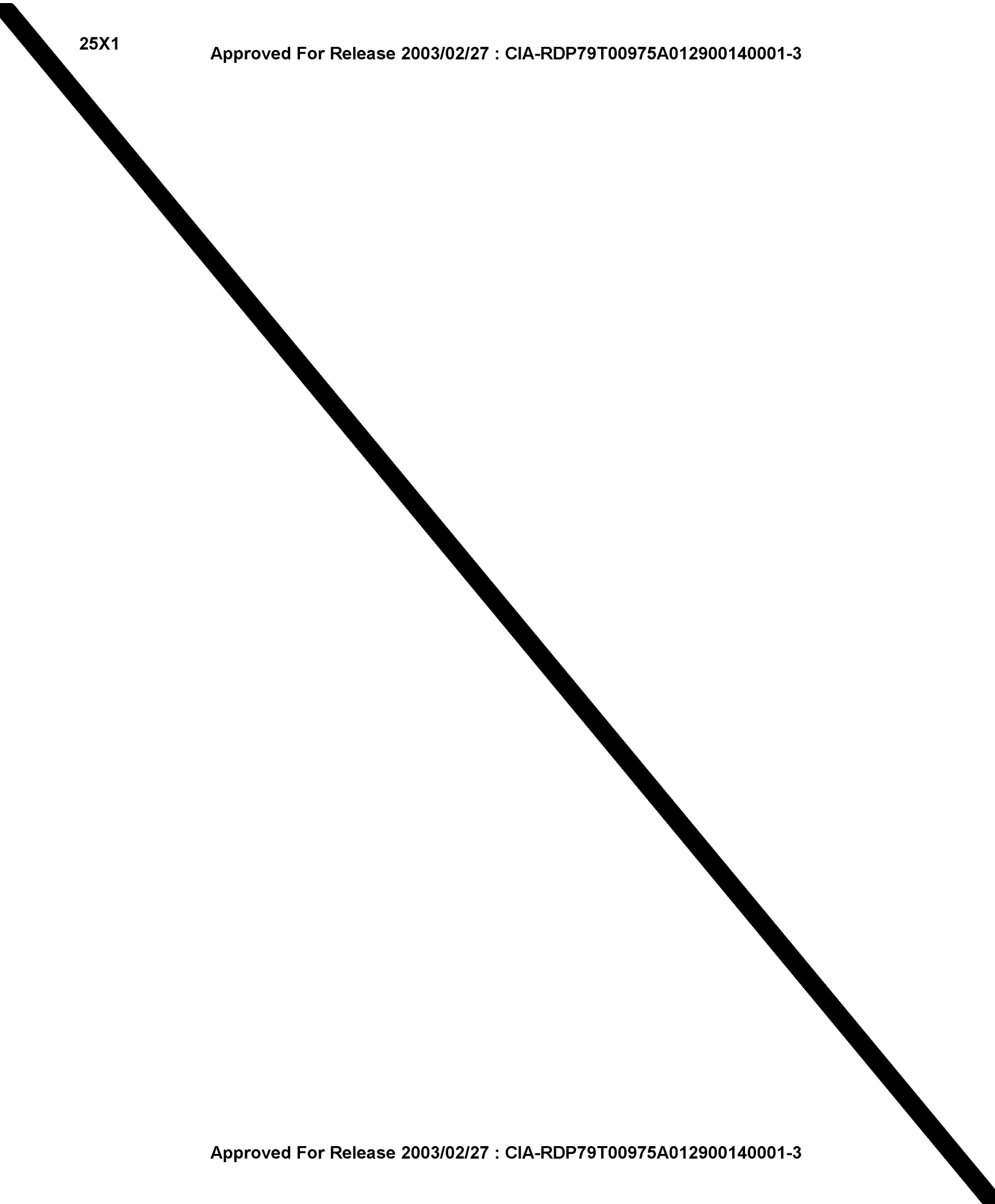

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No. 0019/69
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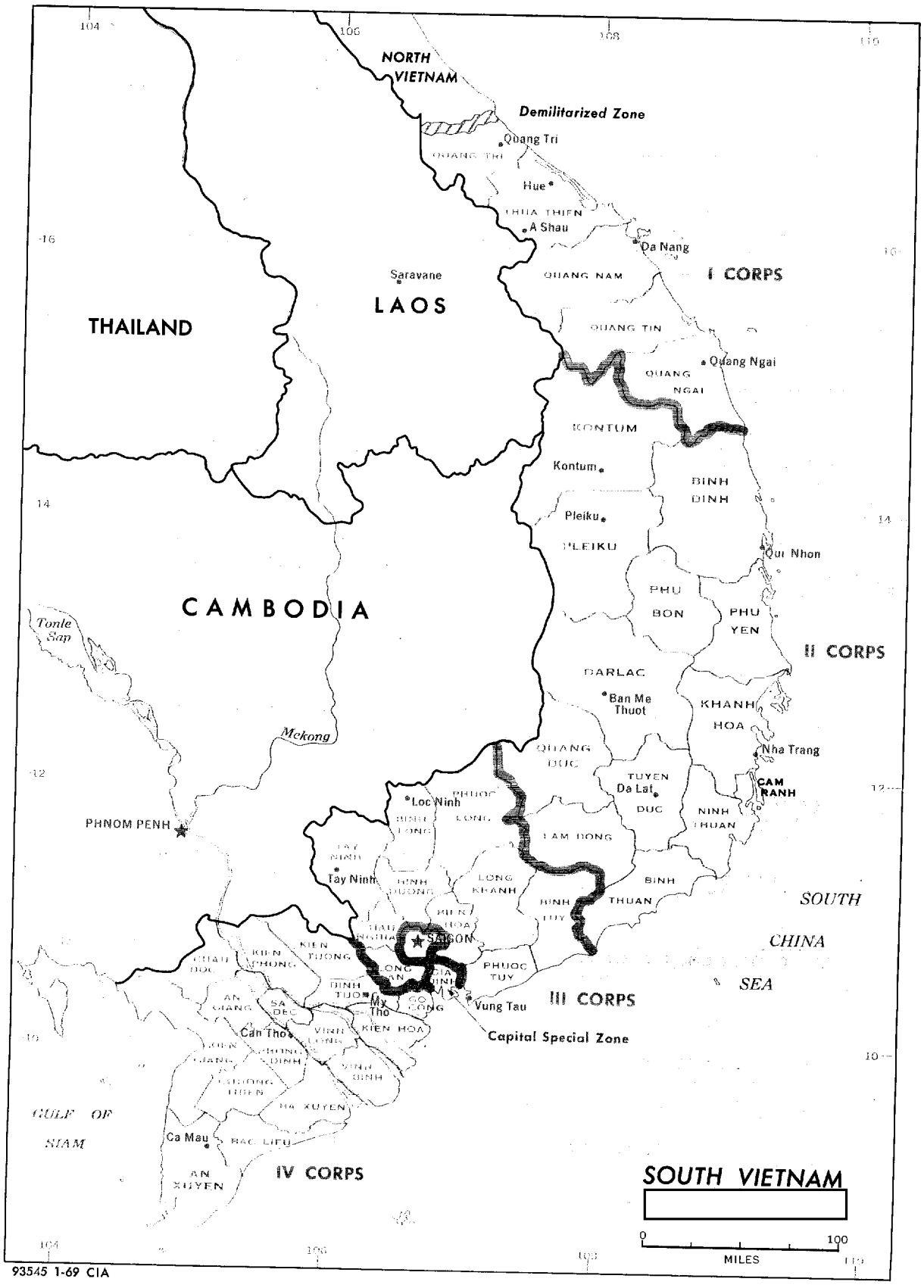

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South Vietnam: The recent upsurge in small-unit actions by Communist local force and guerrilla units continued on 20-21 January, although enemy regulars remained relatively inactive.

These actions, consisting largely of shellings and limited ground probes, have been directed primarily against remotely deployed allied troop concentrations and field positions, with only occasional forays against major allied bases and urban areas. Hamlets and villages in widespread sectors have also come under intensified pressure in recent days, with a number of terrorist incidents and mass abductions reported.

The stepped-up harassment against South Vietnam's countryside appears intended both to neutralize the government's drive to consolidate its military and administrative influence over contested rural areas through the Accelerated Pacification Campaign and to reinforce the Communists' claims that they are controlling ever larger numbers of people at the grass-roots level. [redacted] (Map)

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Czechoslovakia: Dubcek and his colleagues are searching for means to deter further public disturbances while attempting to convince the Soviets that they are in full control of the situation.

Prague's top leaders--Dubcek, President Svoboda, Premier Cernik, and National Assembly President Smrkovsky--met with university officials on 20-21 January in an attempt to mollify students incensed by the self-immolation of two Czechoslovak youths who attributed their acts to despair over the political situation. The leadership must come up with a compromise satisfactory to the students or face the possibility of other suicide attempts and demonstrations.

The first "human torch," Jan Palach, will be given a "hero's funeral" on 25 January and will be buried alongside the country's great composers, intellectuals, and writers. The ceremony will be private, but it will undoubtedly attract youths from all over the country who are intent on demonstrating in Prague.

During the demonstrations of 18-20 January, the police apparently initiated no special security precautions, and no military forces were seen in the streets. However, Cernik told the Czech trade union congress on 21 January that some of the student actions were "antisocialist" and that the security police would clamp down on any future demonstrations. Attempts by the police to break up such gatherings could lead to disturbances that would undoubtedly worsen the situation for the Dubcek leadership.

The Soviets have warned Czechoslovak leaders that they must control the situation. TASS has condemned the student acts as anti-Communist provocations, and Pravda, in describing Palach's suicide, appeared to have deliberately misrepresented

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the Prague leadership's sympathetic attitude. Pravda also noted that the Czechoslovak authorities will permit no further demonstrations to take place, leaving the impression that the Dubcek leadership is prepared to take strong measures to prevent them. [redacted] 25X1

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Arab States - Israel: Iraq's attitude has become the most militant and intransigent of all the Arab states directly embroiled with Israel.

[redacted] what was to have been a routine conference of Arab defense ministers and chiefs of staff in Cairo from 9 to 12 January was disrupted by Iraq's insistence that future Israeli attacks on any single Arab state be met by a military response on all fronts. The head of the Iraqi delegation charged that the other Arab states were only halfheartedly carrying out their military responsibilities and were thereby betraying the Arab cause. The other Arab representatives were said to have been stunned by the Iraqi attack. 25X1

In rebutting the Iraqi charges, the representatives of Egypt, Jordan, and even Syria argued that the Arabs do not now have the capability even to defend themselves against Israel, much less to mount any offensive actions. The Egyptians and Syrians were [redacted] "paragons of moderation" throughout the conference, agreeing fully with the normally cautious Jordanians, being very realistic about Arab military capabilities, and remaining relatively objective in discussing the desirability and difficulties of achieving peace. 25X1

The only explanation, and probably a partially correct one, the other delegations could give for the Iraqis' behavior was that they were either seeking some propaganda advantage or hoped to provoke external troubles in order to distract attention from increasingly serious domestic difficulties. [redacted] 25X1

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USSR-Cuba: Soviet military aid deliveries to Cuba appear to be under way again after a hiatus of almost a year.

The Soviet freighter Yuniyy Leninets, expected to arrive in Cuba on or about 23 January, appears to be carrying a military cargo. During the ship's current voyage it unloaded military equipment in Syria and Egypt. Another Soviet ship, Ilya Kulik, which may also be carrying arms, has declared for Cuba and could arrive by the first week in February.

This activity may stem from agreements reached during the Cuban deputy armed forces minister's trip to Moscow in November. The last Soviet military aid deliveries to Cuba took place in February 1968. Shipments had averaged about two a month during the preceding 18 months. These deliveries were probably the result of a military aid agreement concluded in the spring of 1966.

The resumption of arms shipments would coincide with the partial muting of public polemics and other signs that Soviet-Cuban relations have improved since Castro's statements supporting the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. [redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted]

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USSR: The USSR is seeking assistance from truck manufacturers in Western Europe and the US in an effort to upgrade its truck-building industry.

The Soviets recently raised their truck production target for 1970 to 750,000, nearly double the output level of 1965. Truck production has increased at a rate of only seven to eight percent a year since 1965, however, and the plan for 1969 of about 500,000 makes the attainment of the revised 1970 goal highly unlikely. In addition to the slow increase in output, the Soviets are dissatisfied with the low level of technology of their truck industry.

The latest Soviet effort to acquire Western truck know-how was made during the trade talks with France earlier this month. A Soviet proposal that France supply a plant capable of producing 150,000 trucks a year will be discussed further in March. An earlier offer to purchase a truck and bus plant from the Leyland Company, a British firm, is also pending.

Some technical assistance from the free world for the truck industry is already available to the USSR. A contract with FIAT to build the passenger car plant at Tol'yatti also provides for furnishing expertise in the renovation and modernization of the Soviet motor vehicle industry. In addition, the Leyland Company recently agreed to provide a program of technical assistance to the Soviet truck industry for one year.

The US has not aided the Soviet truck industry since World War II, although machinery and equipment are now being sold to equip both the Tol'yatti plant and the Moskvich passenger car plant in Moscow. A Detroit firm's request for permission to export a $65 million foundry to produce engines for ZIL trucks is currently under US consideration, however. [redacted]

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Japan: Violence at Japanese universities may develop into a major challenge to Prime Minister Sato's government.

Radical factions of the Zengakuren, a leftist student confederation, regard the struggle with university authorities over educational policies and administration as only a preliminary skirmish in their battle with the Japanese "establishment," their main target. Moreover, in provoking campus disorders throughout the current academic year, Zengakuren militants are testing tactics for their planned campaign of violence against the extension of the US-Japan security agreement in 1970.

A long-standing rivalry within Zengakuren has now erupted into a bitter power struggle between those supporting the Japan Communist Party and those backing more extreme Trotskyite tactics. In an effort to isolate their radical rivals, pro-Communist Zengakuren factions have joined with politically neutral, moderate elements of the student body in seeking an accommodation with school authorities. Thus far, however, the Trotskyite factions have prevented any easing of the situation.

Students are currently disrupting normal operations in some 50 schools throughout the country, including Tokyo University, Japan's most prestigious educational institution. The police successfully quelled disorders over the weekend, but mounting public concern stems not only from the breakdown of order at the schools but also from the very real threat to students' careers posed by the possible closure of several universities. The wave of violence at Tokyo University has left the school heavily damaged and has forced the government to cancel entrance examinations for the next freshman class.

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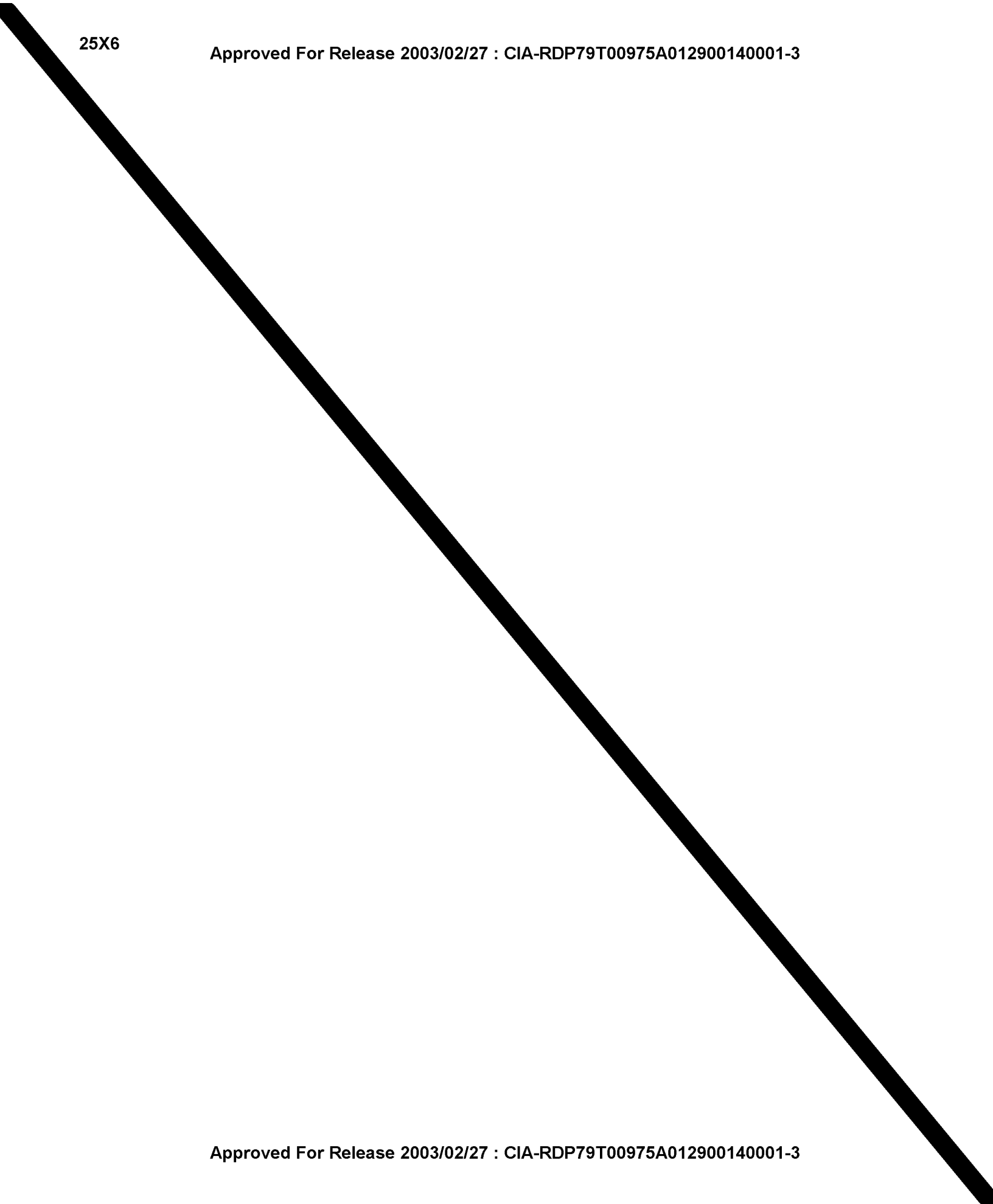

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Pakistan: The newly formed united opposition movement has met with mixed success in its first attempt to organize nationwide antigovernment protests.

Peaceful demonstrations were staged in West Pakistan's major cities last week with sizable turnouts, and opposition leaders expressed satisfaction with the response. In East Pakistan, however, the demonstration fizzled before it got under way; police and military contingents cowed would-be participants by moving in quickly and enforcing restrictions on public assembly.

Some violence did occur when police in Dacca, the capital of East Pakistan, clashed with students who had been prevented from joining the opposition protest. One student was killed and many were injured or arrested in encounters over the weekend as the students continued to defy the government. Military police patrolled Dacca streets yesterday during a 24-hour strike which the students called.

The eight disparate parties of the united opposition movement have announced plans to stage further protests as the 1969-70 elections approach. Their campaign has been endorsed by several respected former government officials who joined the opposition late last year.

President Ayub Khan has been plagued with antigovernment disorders since early November 1968 and has thus far ridden out the storm. He is unlikely to yield to this current pressure, which is mainly designed to force a change in an indirect electoral system stacked in his favor, but he has not yet ruled out some concessions which might take some of the steam out of the opposition movement.

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Burma-India: The sale of Burmese rice to India under a recently concluded agreement will help Rangoon's balance-of-payments situation, but excessive government controls and mismanagement will continue to cripple the economy. The 200,000-ton sale will bring in $28 million, which is about 30 percent of Burma's realized export earnings last year. Rangoon had to renege on export commitments last spring because it was unable to collect sufficient rice from the farmers, and later in the year, when rice was available, found that its customers had gone elsewhere. 25X1 [redacted]

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[Uruguay: Labor unrest has again become a problem for the government. One worker was killed and several were injured yesterday when civil servants demonstrating for payment of their back wages clashed with police in Montevideo. The government is still operating under a limited state of siege, and security forces should prove able to contain demonstrations of this nature. The government has not alleviated the workers' legitimate wage complaints, however, and new labor conflicts are likely. [redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted]

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Bolivia: The declaration of a state of siege on 18 January may have been designed to provide an excuse for President Barrientos to arrest and exile the more obstreperous opposition leaders. There have been rumors of guerrilla activity which might have justified the declaration, but these have not been confirmed. Arrests so far have totaled only a dozen or more students and union leaders, and early opposition reaction has been confined to verbal protests. [Students, however, are attempting to organize a protest for the evening of 22 January.] 25X1 [redacted]

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Ecuador: A Chinese-line Communist was elected president of the student federation at Central University in Quito, Ecuador's largest, on 17 January by an absolute majority in a field of four. Ecuadorean politicians have a strong interest in student elections,

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